



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

the subject ; it is a vague, distant notion, enveloped in the Slavonic mist." It is curious to note the self-depreciatory tone in which these men honestly indulged. Daudet himself was the first to find himself popular. As he would answer the questions of the others as to the size of the editions of his works he began to feel almost like a culprit, and Zola would exclaim, " Our books will never sell !" No one was more delighted than Tourguéneff when he discovered that people read his works.

Altogether there is a singular charm about these recollections. The translation is admirably done by Laura Ensor, and the illustrations and off-hand sketches lighten up the pages wondrously well.

## VI.

### SOME RECENT FICTION.

AMONG the best of the numerous libraries for vacation reading may be named *The Town and Country* series of the Messrs. Appleton, the first four volumes of which are before us. If the first installment is a fair indication of the character of the series, it is safe to say that it does not contain trash, that its literary standard is good, and at times excellent, and that it furnishes clean reading in an inexpensive and convenient form.

"The Steel Hammer,"\* which was published in Paris a year or two ago, and is now for the first time presented in an English version, is a detective story of the better class, and takes its name from the instrument with which a murder was supposed to have been committed in the Bois de Boulogne, near Paris. The suicide of the suspected murderer, and the haunted life of the real criminal, furnish material for some powerful dramatic situations, but the final denouement is reserved for the sequel, which constitutes the third of the series, and is entitled "For Fifteen Years."†

In this the novelist's art has made plausible the rather improbable scheme by which the widow and child of the innocent man are received into the household of the murderer by the wife, who vaguely suspects the truth, and for years the mask of friendship conceals the settled purpose of the two women, who are seeking, the onerous revenge, the other concealment. The few characters of the story are well and clearly drawn, and the book will prove of absorbing interest to the numerous lovers of this class of fiction.

Fewer points to commend are found in "Eve,"‡ a new English novel which has too frequent lapses into the regions of the improbable and too many blemishes of style to permit of classification with the best of the series. The plot is sufficiently involved and entertainingly wrought out, however, to hold the attention of the summer reader, and the leading personages are unusually well portrayed. The author's clumsy device of dumping his objectionable characters over a precipice in order to the final adjustment of the tangled state of affairs which he has helplessly woven, does not commend itself to the good sense of the reader.

In "A Counsel of Perfection"§ the reader experiences an agreeable surprise, for the decidedly neutral title is not likely to attract one. "Lucas Malet," the pen name of Mrs. Harrison, a daughter of the late Charles Kingsley, is the for-

\* "The Steel Hammer." By Louis Ulbach. Translated from the French by E. W. Latimer. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

† "For Fifteen Years." A sequel to "The Steel Hammer." By Louis Ulbach. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

‡ "Eve." A novel. By S. Baring-Gould. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

§ "A Counsel of Perfection." By Lucas Malet. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

tunate possessor of a power of introspection combined, to an unusual degree, with a magnetic style. The sketches of travel in Switzerland, seen through the eyes of the heroine, who is the paternally oppressed daughter of a selfish, unreasonable bookworm, are charmingly told, and the general trend of the story proves, in retrospect, to have been entirely satisfactory. "The small, neat features" of Antony Hammond, when taken in hand by the old artist, Time, could never have stood for an ideal to the noble girl whose filial devotion teaches her to disregard them. And having asserted her independence, and vindicated her right to have a lover, the critic feels that nothing more could have been done for her. This number is by far the best of the series, from a literary standpoint, and though almost entirely devoid of incident, will meet the approval of a large class of readers who reject more highly flavored fiction.

In the Gainsborough series, "A Little Maid of Acadie"\* contains the material for a charming pastoral tale, and at times one is almost forced to conclude that such a one has been produced, so dainty is the little François, and so enchanting some of the descriptions of Acadian scenery. Nothing could be more improbable than the sequence of events, which terminate so abruptly and which the most ordinary novelist should have been able to construct without the cumbrous *impedimenta* in the way of apologies with which the concluding pages are burdened.

A few pages of decrepit poetry, an entertaining, but highly improbable, tale of fashionable life at Newport, and two minor sketches, furnish an excuse for the artistic binding, gilt-edged leaves, and gold-lettered title of "Stray Leaves from Newport."†

The luxurious fancies and delightful unrealities of the Arabian Nights are reproduced in a translation of a Turkish romance.‡ The author of the "Mukhaygalat," of which the volume under consideration forms the second third, was a Cretan, and the author of several valuable treatises on mysticism, philosophy, and the sciences in which he was an adept. He died while on a diplomatic mission to Persia, in 1798. Through the ignorance and carelessness of his heirs, this book is the only one preserved to us. The collection is said to have been made with a view of exalting the occult sciences as practiced by the dervishes, but to the English reader, it will appear only as a series of marvelous and entertaining Oriental tales.

The first impression produced on reading "A Story of More Lives Than One"§ is that of the theatre-goer who steps behind the scenes and inspects the mechanical contrivances, by means of which the brilliant stage effects are produced. The author's motive is to show the terrible results of the pessimistic philosophy when practically wrought out in human life, as contrasted with those of the Christian believer. His prelude is, however, so extended and so minutely descriptive of his plans and purposes in writing, that the whole story is anticipated before the first chapter is finished. The characters are unreal creations, entirely lacking in perspective and coloring, and the didactic conversations which are forced into their mouths have no appearance of being the product of their own brains. Mr. McKenzie, the faithful old Scotchman, whose life is contrasted with that of the pessimistic hero and fore-ordained suicide, has a very unnatural way of beginning his remarks in broken English and then falling into very good English. A superficial

\* "A Little Maid of Acadie." By Marian C. L. Reeves. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

† "Stray Leaves from Newport." By Esther Gracie Wheeler. Boston: Cupples & Hurd.

‡ "The Story of Jewad." A romance. By Aziz Eferdi, the Cretan. Translated from the Turkish by E. J. W. Gibb, M. R. A. S. New York: William S. Gottsberger.

§ "Stubble or Wheat? A Story of More Lives Than One." By S. Bayard Dod. New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.

survey of the respective merits of leading American colleges adds nothing to the author's reputation for profundity. The book is not lacking in good points, but the writer has many crudities of style to overcome before he will be classed with the best story-writers.

## VII.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

TO COMPILER into a few volumes all that is good of many books is an undertaking which many able men may wisely shrink from, and yet this very task has been accomplished by Mr. Stedman and his co-laborers. The "Library of American Literature"\* stands, and will stand, pre-eminent among its fellows. It is the one successful compilation of the age.

It is a pleasure to praise a good book when such a work is found among the many trashy volumes put forth to-day by the publishing houses; and it is not very often that the REVIEW is called upon to do so, but in this case it is both a pleasure and a privilege to taste of the literary feast which Mr. Stedman has invited us to. His name was, of course, a guarantee that what he provided for our mental delectation would be excellent; but in the "Library of American Literature" he has set forth a mental feast unparalleled in its completeness and its excellence. The ten volumes of which the series is composed are, and will be, invaluable to those who have not a remarkably well-equipped public library near at hand. Abounding in American incident, rich in literary merit, redundant in historic lore, permeated throughout with that spirit which has made these United States a nation—no books can be so wisely and safely placed in the hands of our youth as these. They amuse while they instruct. They teach while they entertain. They are *good, very good*.

Mr. Edmund Pendleton's story, "A Virginia Inheritance,"† is a readable, well written affair, but not entitled to rank above the average holiday novel. The scene is laid partly in New York City and partly in Virginia, and the leading characters are a city lawyer of good social standing, the members of an old Virginian family, a hot-headed youth from the same State, and sundry people moving in fashionable circles. By the terms of a will the Virginians are threatened with the loss of their old home, which passes to a city cousin, who engages the lawyer to conduct negotiations. The oldest daughter of the house is a charming girl, strong-minded, but ingenuous and captivating, and the lawyer finds himself face to face with a very complicated problem. The ways of sleepy, delightful old Virginia and of New York, in some of her social and commercial aspects, are faithfully delineated. The "old general" is a good study. The author evidently writes from careful observation.

Messrs. T. Y. Crowell & Co. reproduce in translation a series of the works of Victor Hugo, of which we have received copies of "Toilers of the Sea," "Notre Dame de Paris," "By Order of the King," "History of a Crime" and "Ninety-three." The translations seem to have been done with care, and although it is obviously impossible to reproduce the exact idioms and to convey the entire meaning of the author in any translation, yet as a whole and without stopping to discriminate between

\* "A Library of American Literature," compiled and edited by Edmund Clarence Stedman, and Ellen Mackay Hutchinson. Charles L. Webster & Co.

† "A Virginia Inheritance." A novel. By Edmund Pendleton. D. Appleton & Co.